

Hot Topics for Call with Senator Schumer's Environmental Team

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Adrian Deveny, Legislative Assistant; Tim Ryder, Legislative Aide; Vandan Patel, Legislative Correspondent; Megan Glander, Regional Director – Peekskill Office

Water Infrastructure Funding

See below the amounts NY will likely receive for CW and DW programs, along with the other amounts they'll be receiving for each BIL program:

<i>New York BIL Funds (approximate)</i>					
Total	DWSRF	DWSRF Lead Service Line Replacement	DWSRF Emerging Contaminants	CWSRF	CWSRF Emerging Contaminants
\$428,072,000	\$73,327,000	\$115,475,000	\$30,793,000	\$198,074,000	\$10,403,000

- HQ is working to schedule a meeting between Sen Schumer's staff and the village of Kiryas Joel to discuss guidance on allowable uses of BIL funding and debt forgiveness for a DWSRF project, per Schumer's staffer's request.

West Nile Virus/Mosquito Control

- At the request of Senator Schumer's office, PAO organized a virtual meeting on November 9, 2021 for the County Health Officials of New York, to discuss available mosquito control methods and government agencies' roles in mosquito management. OCSPP presented on EPA's role in integrated mosquito management and new technologies for mosquito control, and speakers from CDC, NYSDEC, and the American Mosquito Control Association also presented their organizations' expertise in various aspects of mosquito control. The presentations spurred a robust discussion for the more than 90 attendees, most of whom were NY county officials.

PFAS Contamination in Rockland County

- In late 2020, more than 300,000 Rockland County residents learned that their drinking water sources have levels of PFAS chemicals that exceed the NYS Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for PFOA after NYS implemented MCLs in summer 2020.
- In Spring 2021, Senator Schumer and Congressman Mondaire Jones sent a letter to Acting Administrator Nishida calling on EPA to use its technical expertise to quickly assist the community in testing their water and urging EPA to coordinate with NYSDEC to assist Rockland County in determining the sources of contamination and devising a remediation strategy.
 - EPA, NYSDOH, NYSDEC and Rockland County met in July 2021 and agreed to form a technical subgroup to develop a "study" (e.g. a sampling plan - how many wells, which ones, etc.) to sample additional wells. Rockland County will kick off the technical subgroup sometime in the near future.

- Senator Schumer sent a letter in April 2021 to Administrator Regan calling on EPA to establish maximum contaminant levels on PFOA and PFOS.

Tech City

- Tech City is a former IBM production facility in the Town of Ulster that had been in operation for more than 30 years and has been used as an industrial park since 1998. The site contains several buildings, two of which were contaminated with asbestos-containing material, as well as three large piles of Regulated Asbestos Containing Material (RACM) that are currently covered.
- In 2020, when none of the PRPs agreed to perform requested removal activities, EPA undertook the actions, which included building demolition and disposal of asbestos-contaminated materials, and securing the property. In fall 2021 EPA also filed a Notice of Federal Lien securing payment of EPA's costs at the Site.
- In December 2021, an agreement was signed to allow the sale of TechCity to a private company, to include both cash payments and financial commitments for cleanup, plus payment EPA's past costs (secured by the lien). The new site owner is willing to enter into a formal agreement with EPA for the cleanup of the RACM piles and the remaining asbestos-contaminated building.
- The Senator's staff was interested in aiding to expedite cleanup at the site – EPA briefed staff last year while work was ongoing, and communicated with the staffers upon notice of the sales agreement in December. **In July 2021 Senator Schumer held a press event at the site announcing his push for an additional \$5 billion in upcoming infrastructure bills to remediate Brownfield and Superfund sites and other economic and workforce development programs.**

Greenidge

- Greenidge Generation LLC is a power generation company on Lake Seneca in the Town of Dresden, Finger Lakes Region, that currently provides its power supply to cryptocurrency mining operations. The facility has gained national attention over the past year as the target of concerns regarding its carbon emissions from Senators Warren, Gillibrand, and Schumer.
- In October 2021, Sen Schumer sent a letter urging EPA to exercise oversight powers in evaluating its Title V Clean Air Act permit application for cryptocurrency mining at Greenidge Generation Plant in Dresden - NYSDEC has since denied the renewal of the facility's permit.
 - In January 2022, EPA issued an ineligibility determination for Greenidge's application to extend use of their CCR surface impoundment until 2023 seeing as the facility no longer burns coal.

Vieques Cleanup

- For over 60 years until 2003, the U.S. Navy used the small island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, as a bombing range and site for military-training exercises including live bombing, after which large amounts of munitions, and hazardous substances were identified on the island and in surrounding waters. The exposure to toxic metals and chemical residues is of concern to human health for Vieques residents.
- In 2005, EPA listed the outer portion of the island on the Superfund National Priority List, and a Federal Facilities Agreement was signed by the Navy, EPA, the Puerto Rico Environmental

Quality Board, and DOI to establish the framework and schedule for implementing the CERCLA Response Actions on Vieques. The Navy is responsible for funding and leading cleanup efforts, with oversight by EPA.

- [[HYPERLINK](#)

"https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hac/pha/vieques/Vieques_Summary_Final_Report_English_2013.pdf"]The Senator's office is interested in how they can be helpful to move the Vieques cleanup work along. Last spring, staffers met with R2 to discuss cleanup work at the Vieques site, community concerns, and the path forward. As follow-up, R2 shared partner agency contacts for DOI Fish and Wildlife Service and Governor Pierluisi's Office, for the staffers to contact for additional perspectives.